



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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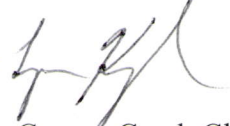
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October 17, 2001

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Site Inspection, Ash Grove Cement Company, Grouse Creek Clay Mine,
S/003/043, Box Elder County, Utah

Date of Inspection: October 11, 2001

Time of Inspection: 10:30 a.m.

Conditions: Partly cloudy, cool

Participants: Lowell Braxton, Mary Ann Wright, Wayne Hedberg and Lynn Kunzler,
DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: Document site conditions while in the area.

Observations:

This site was inactive at the time of this inspection; however, it appeared that the site had been active within the last few weeks.

Upon arriving at this site, it appeared that this site had exceeded the 5-acre limit for a small mining operation. Using a Trimble Geo-explorer 3 GPS, the disturbed area was surveyed. The pit and pad was estimated to be about 3.85 acres. Since the road used to access the pit appeared to be relatively new construction (also, Mr. Kunzler did not recall seeing this road when he had visited this site prior to the onset of Ash Grove's mining operation), the road was also surveyed. The acreage of the road was estimated at 1.75 acres. A subsequent phone call to the BLM regarding this road indicated that the road was indeed new construction (that had been authorized by the BLM). This makes a total disturbed acreage estimate of 5.6 acres.

There was also a small pit (about 0.1 acres) about 50 yards north of the main pit. This pit is assumed, at this time, to be the responsibility of another operator and was not included in the acreage estimates.

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Other observations made at the site included what appeared to be the topsoil, which had been stripped and stockpiled in a berm along the eastern edge of the site. Also, the area appeared to be free of litter.

Conclusions:

This operation is potentially in non-compliance with the approved NOI in that it has expanded beyond the 5-acre limit for a small mining operation. The operator needs to be contacted in writing to meet with the Associate Director of Mining to discuss resolution of the potential non-compliance, which may include partial reclamation of the site to reduce the acreage to less than 5 acres, or permitting the site as a large mining operation.

Several photos were taken to document site conditions.

jb

cc: Craig Puljan, Ash Grove Cement Co.
Cheryl Martinez, BLM
S03 43 Grouse Creek Clay Insp

